UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.9 (B)
27 November 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Fourth session
Bonn, 11-22 December 2000
Item 7 (j) of the provisional agenda[1]

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

(j) CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE COMMITMENTS TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

1. By its decision 8/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to take appropriate action for the formulation of a draft declaration on the commitments to enhance implementation of the obligations of the Convention.

2. By the same decision all Parties, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations were invited to submit their written proposals and/or suggestions for the text of the declaration.

3. As requested, the draft declaration is attached to this note for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The compilation and the synthesis of proposals and/or suggestions received are contained in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.9 (A).

[1] ICCD/COP(4)/1.

DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE COMMITMENTS UNDER THE CONVENTION TO ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNCCD

WE, the Ministers, Heads of Delegation and Representatives of country Parties and observer States to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as well as representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations participating in the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Conference of the Parties held at Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany, from 11 to 22 December 2000;

PURPOSE

REAFFIRM our resolve to fulfil the commitments under the Convention and to actively continue supporting its effective implementation;

REAFFIRM ALSO that the Convention is an innovative legal instrument that enables affected countries to act in a more structured and integrated manner to effectively address desertification and the effects of drought;

FURTHER REAFFIRM our political will and commitments in line with the provisions of the Convention, to formulate, adopt and implement action programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought at all levels. These action programmes include strategic measures and constitute indispensable working tools for policy and decision makers as well as relevant actors involved in the implementation of the Convention;

RECOGNIZE the need to halt the increasing land degradation that affects more than one billion persons worldwide;

RECOGNIZE ALSO that despite important efforts of both developed and affected developing country Parties to comply with the provisions of the Convention, there is still a need to enhance implementation of the obligations of the Convention through better coordination of action at all levels;

FURTHER RECOGNIZE the need to foster the synergies between the sustainable development conventions and other related multilateral Agreements in full partnership with all relevant international organizations;

APPRECIATE the interest demonstrated by international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations as well as community-based organizations in efforts to implement the Convention at all levels;

APPRECIATE ALSO the measures taken by developed country Parties to assist in the preparation of action programmes of affected developing country Parties;

OBJECTIVE

RESOLVE to implement the action programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought as important instruments to promote sustainable development with a clear focus on the reduction of poverty and on the long-term protection of ecosystems in affected countries;

UNDERTAKE to develop genuine partnership agreements by strengthening efforts in collaboration with all relevant actors through appropriate action that includes, inter alia, methods to prevent and control desertification; encourage land reform as well as other institutional and legislative measures; promote access to environmentally sound technology; forge stronger consultative processes leading to the mobilization of substantial financial resources; and explore ways and means of mobilizing new and additional funding so as to further enhance the implementation of the Convention through the integration of National Action

Programmes into national sustainable development strategies prepared by affected country Parties;

TIME FRAME

STRESS that special efforts should be made to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought during the first decade (2001-2010) of the 21st century, in order to reverse the severe situation prevailing in various affected developing countries, particularly in Africa;

SPECIFIC THEMATIC AND SECTORAL AREAS

RESOLVE that during the decade the strategic areas for action at all levels to reduce the vulnerability of the populations of affected developing countries should include the following: integrated management of water resources in degraded land areas; rational use and management of rangelands; development of sustainable agricultural and ranching production systems; development of new and renewable energy sources; launching of reforestation/afforestation programmes and intensification of soil conservation programmes;

RESOLVE ALSO to concentrate our efforts on areas identified at the national level, including: the promotion of best practices of indigenous knowledge; the promotion of environmental education and the development of policies to eradicate illiteracy; the development of capacity-building for community-based organizations; and the development of early warning systems for food security and drought forecasting.

CONCRETE MEASURES AND MEANS

DECIDE to develop and carry out activities in the thematic and sectoral areas identified above with a view to:

(a) To regenerate the natural resources and restore the ecosystems in affected areas;

(b) To increase the building of small-dams and small-scale irrigation to be used by many small-scale producers;

(c) To finalize and adopt by 2005 all necessary legislative and policy measures towards the development of sustainable agricultural and ranching production systems;

(d) To enhance the reforestation/afforestation programmes through the development of joint activities between the Rio Conventions and other related agreements and to intensify the management of soil;

(e) To double, by 2010, the use of renewable energy sources (e.g. solar, wind and biomass);

DECIDE ALSO to adopt the target of reversing the spread of desertification, and reduce areas affected by one quarter between 2001 and 2010;

EXPRESS concern that despite the important efforts made by all interested partners, the affected developing country Parties have been unable to mobilize the necessary financial resources to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. In these circumstances, we urge all relevant actors to take a set of pro-active financial measures, which include *inter alia*:

(a) Taking urgent action to facilitate direct access of affected developing countries to Global Environment Facility Resources for the implementation of the Convention;

(b) Concluding partnership agreements with the private sector in order to increase investments in activities related to the implementation of the Convention;

(c) Facilitating access to small and medium-size credit lines to foster activities at the local and national levels;

(d) Strengthening the programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC), especially the affected developing country Parties.

MONITORING AND FOLLOW UP

RECOGNIZE that methodologies on desertification assessment and monitoring need to be developed so as to enable all the affected countries to meet the objectives of the Convention;

SUPPORT the initiative launched by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility for the development of a Global Land Degradation Assessment;

DECIDE to develop a truly comprehensive Overall Assessment of Desertification (OAD) that will provide the affected countries and all the decision makers concerned with access to global data on the status of desertification and its processes;

DECIDE ALSO to review the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration, and request the Executive Secretary of the Convention to submit a progress report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties in the year 2005;

URGE all affected countries, relevant international organizations, regional and non governmental organizations, foundations and the private sector to continue supporting action to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, and to take concrete action on the provisions of this Declaration.

Bonn, ... December 2000.

- - - - -